

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

PCT/JP2003/016879



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference PA3-9002WO | FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416 | |
| International application No. PCT/JP2003/016879 | International filing date (day/month/year) 26 December 2003 (26.12.2003) | Priority date (day/month/year) 14 January 2003 (14.01.2003) |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A63F 1/06, G06K 17/00 | | |
| Applicant ANGEL CO., LTD. | | |

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| 1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. |
| 2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet. |
| 3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions). |
| 4. This report contains indications relating to the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application |

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|--|---|
| Date of submission of the demand 20 July 2004 (20.07.2004) | Date of completion of this report 07 December 2004 (07.12.2004) |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP | Authorized officer |
| Facsimile No. | Telephone No. |

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is language of a translation furnished for the purpose of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

- ☒ The international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☐ the description:
- pages _____, as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ the claims:
- pages _____, as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ the drawings:
- pages _____, as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PC/2003/16879

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------------------------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims | 5-9, 12-15, 19-26, 31-35 | YES |
| | Claims | 1-4, 10, 11, 16-18, 27-30 | NO |
| Inventive step (IS) | Claims | 7-9, 14, 15, 22-26, 31-35 | YES |
| | Claims | 1-6, 10-13, 16-21, 27-30 | NO |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims | 1-35 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Document 1: JP, 2002-165916, A (K.K. Nippon BMC), June 11, 2002 (06.11.02),
Claims 1 and 2, Paragraphs 0011-0014, 0018 and 0019, Figs. 2, 3 and 8

Document 2: WO, 02/064225, A1 (Enzeru Shoji K.K.)
August 22, 2002 (08.22.02), Full text, all drawings

The inventions relating to claims 1-4, 10, 11, 16-18 and 27-30 are described in document 1 cited in the ISR (claims 1 and 2, paragraphs 0011-0014, 0018 and 0019, Figs. 2, 3 and 8); therefore, they do not appear to be novel or involve an inventive step.

The inventions relating to claims 5, 6, 12, 13 and 19-21 do not appear to involve an inventive step based on document 1 and document 2 cited in the ISR (full text, all drawings).

The inventions relating to claims 7-9, 14, 15, 22-26 and 31-35 are not described in any of the documents cited in the ISR; nor are they obvious to a party skilled in the art.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2003/16879

Box No. VI Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

| Application No. Patent No. | Publication date (day/month/year) | Filing date (day/month/year) | Priority date (valid claim) (day/month/year) |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| JP 2003-70956 A (P, X) | 2003.03.11 | 2001.09.07 | |

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

| Kind of non-written disclosure | Date of non-written disclosure (day/month/year) | Date of written disclosure referring to non-written disclosure (day/month/year) |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
|--------------------------------|--|---|

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Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

- (1) Claims 27-35 describe each step as inventions relating to an information processing method, program, recording medium and mark reading method. However, in descriptions of each claim, an entity for operating each step is not specified. Thus, interpretation can be made either that some means comprised in a computer performs each operation, or that a person operates a computer to perform each operation.

Therefore, because the above claims include two different concepts, the inventions relating to the above claims cannot be uniformly grasped.

- (2) The invention relating to claim 7 refers to claim 2 to configure so that "said reading means reads a mark of each card." However, the relationship between "mark" information obtained by reading means and an action of "judging" whether a come-on card and receding card correspond to each other is not clear according to the claim and the cited claim; therefore, as a whole, how "judgment" is made cannot be uniformly grasped.